

THE GW HATCHET

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Monday, April 24, 1995

Earth Day signals environmental awareness GW reveals its Green University strategic plan

BY KRESTA TYLER
HATCHET STAFF WRITER

GW President Steven Joel Trachtenberg signed a copy of the strategic plan for the Green University on Saturday, the 25th anniversary of Earth Day. The strategic plan states the specific ways GW will revamp its entire infrastructure to become environmentally ethical.

The Green University initiative is the result of a partnership between GW and the Environmental Protection Agency to make GW the first official environmentally conscious university.

The plan has been rewritten and amended several times during the past year, said Mark Starik, who is a member of the steering committee of the Green University initiative. Starik, a professor of strategic management, said the process has taken a long time, but was the best way to incorporate the most efficient programs and initiatives into the University. He added that it takes time to create major

fundamental changes within an institution as large as GW.

"To create a deep, comprehensive, ecological, institutional process, you should take a lot of time," Starik said. He added that this is a pilot program involving many people.

The strategic plan that has developed is the culmination of efforts from a wide range of individuals and participants. David Smith, one of the main facilitators of the Green University, said GW will distribute about 500 copies of the strategic plan throughout the community so people can understand what changes will be made and become involved. The initiative itself is unique and "unprecedented in that it covers all aspects of University life," Smith said.

At the core of the strategic plan are seven principles: ecosystem protection, environmental justice, pollution prevention, strong science and data, partnerships, reinventing GW's environmental management operations and environmental accountability.

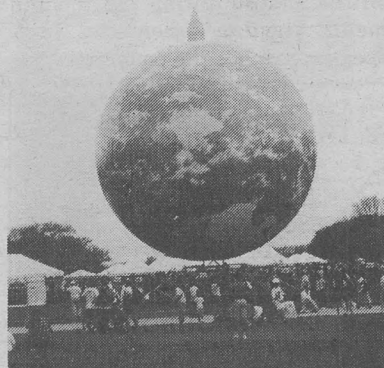


photo by Tyson Trish

A giant replica of the Earth rested in the middle of the Mall Saturday.

Smith said the three overarching goals of the Green University are to incorporate a principled ethic for environmental sustainability into all University activities, to foster and enhance leadership and stewardship in environmental management and sustainable development and to serve as a model of excellence in the areas of environmental management and sustainability among institutions of higher learning and other organizations worldwide.

Six task force subcommittees that will focus on incorporating the plan in different areas of the

(See INITIATIVE, p. 12)

Thousands gather on Mall to celebrate Earth Day

BY JUSTIN BERGMAN
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Washingtonians celebrated the 25th anniversary of Earth Day Saturday at a lively rally on the Mall, complete with speeches by prominent environmentalists and musical performances.

U.S. Park Police estimate that 125,000 people converged on the Mall for the afternoon to recognize the progress regarding environmental concerns since the first Earth Day in 1970.

However, many of the speakers for the day warned people not take for granted the progress that has been made because much work still needs to be done. Many spoke of legislation that is now moving through Congress, which could potentially weaken existing environmental laws and regulations.

The Mall was sprinkled with information booths and tents set up by scores of environmental and political groups. Organizations such as Rock the Vote, Zero Population Growth, World Wildlife Fund and GW's own School of Public Management were just a few of the groups represented.

Other exhibitions included a giant Earth made by schoolchildren, which sat in the middle of the Mall, and an enormous nest made out of recyclable items.

The majority of the people who gathered on the Mall, though, spent the day relaxing on the grass and listening to the many bands that played. Boyz II Men, Natalie Merchant, Toad the Wet Sprocket, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Kenny Loggins and Bruce Hornsby were among the day's performers.

Other Earth Day activities scheduled throughout the area included a parade down 16th Street Northwest, a cleanup project of a three-mile stretch of the Anacostia River and a tree giveaway in Prince William County, Va.

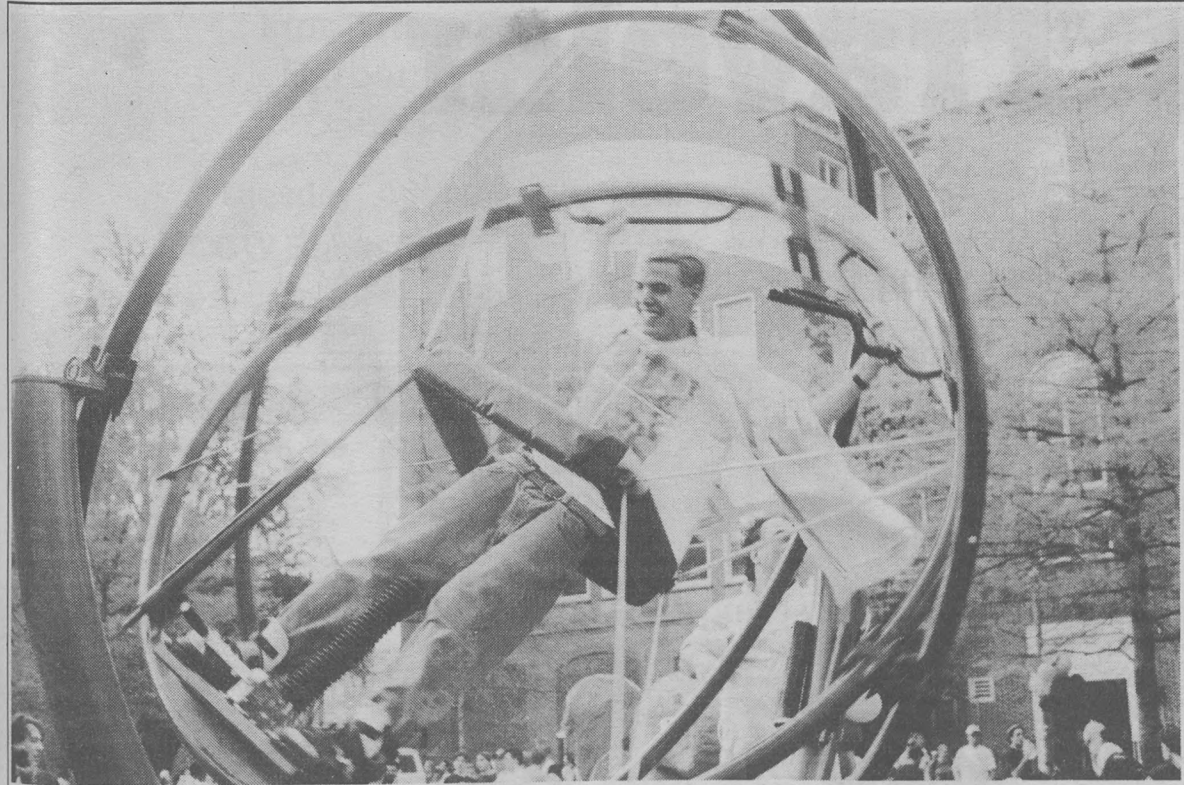


photo by Claire Duggan

Freshman Tony D'Amore takes a spin in the Orbitron, which was set up in the University Yard for Spring Fling Saturday. They Might Be Giants headlined the annual event sponsored by the Program Board.

**REPUBLICANS' TAX CUT
IS TOO PREMATURE.**

OPINION P. 5

**SHOOTIN' HOOPS AND
SMACK ON THE STREETS
OF NEW YORK.**

IMPRESSIONS P. 8

**MORE FRIENDLY THAN
THE BLOB: SMUD AND
FLOAM OOZE TO GW.**

SPOTLIGHT P. 9

**MEN'S TENNIS REACHES
A-10 FINALS.**

SPORTS P. 15

How much experience does a professor need?

New journalism program hire faces criticism

BY JUSTIN BERGMAN
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

The hiring of a new associate professor has sparked controversy in GW's journalism community over the importance of work experience in teaching and the apparent direction of the program.

Janet Steele, who currently teaches media history at the University of Virginia, will fill one of the journalism program's two tenured positions in 1996. She will replace professor Philip Robbins, who has announced he will retire after 28 years of teaching at GW.

Robbins and several alumni working in the journalism field have said they do not support the hiring of Steele, who has extensive education in journalism but little newsroom experience. Robbins said in a statement that he thinks

her appointment will take "GWU's journalism program in the wrong direction."

This debate is indicative of a nationwide concern at universities both in journalism and in other fields. A 1991 article in The Chronicle of Higher Education said administrators across the country are "under pressure from their university bosses" to hire only faculty members who have doctorates because this can increase "the institution's prestige."

Specifically for journalism, the Chronicle article said this type of hiring policy will "undermine the quality of journalism programs," because most academics in the field have little or no experience working in a newsroom and thus cannot teach students these necessary skills.

(See ALUMNI, p. 7)

Forget pomp and circumstance; seniors want free stuff

Graduation exercises are symbolic rites of passage – ceremonies in which people prove their worthiness and are welcomed into a community. For example, a boy or girl might demonstrate prowess performing some grownup task, then put on a symbolic adult garment and become a man or woman.

For students, the test is to remain conscious as a guest speaker rambles for 40 minutes. Then, they pick up a piece of paper and turn their tassels, to match those

worn by the faculty who trained them. Thus, like cub scouts crossing the bridge into Webelohood, students enter the community of educated people.

College graduation is more than that, of course – like any GW function involving parents, it's a big-budget item designed to impress. Similarly, the slate of Senior Week activities leading up to graduation promises to send off seniors with lots of warm fuzzies.

The brochure I received on

Senior Week contained 14 occurrences of the word "FREE," including references to what will be my 700th FREE T-shirt received at GW. Here's some of the other goodies the pamphlet promises:

- Sunday, May 7 – FREE wine-tasting party on the Marvin Center terrace. An outstanding event for which I can't wait, although I thought it was supposed to be held on the Ellipse during Commencement, starting when the first speaker reaches the podium.

- Monday, May 8 – FREE dedication of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis Trachtenberg Hall. I'm not sure how this fits in Senior Week, since no one celebrating Senior Week will ever live there under the new name. Regardless, as a big fan of John Milton, I'm boycotting the event.

- Monday, May 8 – FREE pizza night at Dove & Rainbow. The only thing that symbolizes college better than 'za is FREE 'za. Another outstanding event.

- Tuesday, May 9 – FREE screening of the movie *Clerks*, sponsored by the Career and Cooperative Education Center. This event comes just in time for seniors seeking employment.

- Wednesday, May 10 – D.C. sightseeing day. FREE Metro passes are a great way to get students out doing the zillion touristy things they've been meaning to do. Plus it's a way to give something FREE besides T-shirts and food.

- Wednesday, May 10 – Happy hour at Henry's. I guess the Thurston dining hall was not available. Organizers rightly call this one "Back to the beginning."

- Thursday, May 11 – Day trip to Atlantic City. Like universities, casinos are generous with the FREEbies because they know they'll get that money back eventually.

- Friday, May 12 – Cook-out on quad. This one's billed as the "last chance for FREE food." With hun-

dreds of parents coming into town, I disagree. It's more like the last chance for a dustburger on a squished bun. Plenty of ketchup for the vegetarians, too.

- Saturday, May 13 – Monumental Celebration at Union Station. \$30 a person for ... refreshments. For \$30 I could feed my whole family at Le Maitre d'. Manouche and still have enough for a string or two of bowling in the Marvin Center.

- Sunday, May 14 – Commencement. FREE sun! FREE speeches! Wrong – I paid a \$50 Commencement fee. For \$50, I want the Utah Jazz "Bear" handing me my diploma – or at least to get the document before I'm a doctoral candidate.

As for the ceremony, the five-speaker format sounds like an interesting idea. The true test of its merit, though, will be whether it shortens the proceedings. (Why do graduation speakers traditionally ramble? Nelson Mandela kept his convocation address at Howard last fall to 20 minutes – who could have more to say than Nelson Mandela?)

Plus, with five speakers each giving short addresses, we'll only have to listen to the best parts – the jokes in the beginning and the rousing rhetoric at the end. Maybe we'll get real lucky and someone will throw out some more FREE T-shirts, too.

- John Rega

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Thursday, April 27, 12:15 pm

LISNER AT NOON presents GW TRUMPET ENSEMBLE Robert Birch, Director

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Friday, April 28, 8:00pm

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Monday, May 1, 8:00pm

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Siouxsie Sioux

Friday, May 5, 8:00pm

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Tickets are \$25 available at local Indian/Pakistani groceries. GW Student tickets \$22.50 available at the door. Sponsored by GW Computer Medicine and Shalimar Entertainment.

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\$21 for general public

Smith Center

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or get your student Tickets at the GW Newsstand on the ground floor of the Marvin Center.

UPD, MPD investigate 'potential bomb scare'

Police evacuated Fungler Hall Sunday morning to investigate what University Police called a "potential bomb scare," after a professor said she heard a ticking sound in the garbage can across from her office.

Metropolitan Police later recovered a personal data organizer from the garbage can, which had low-running batteries that caused the ticking sound, University Director of Public Affairs Mike Freedman said.

Metropolitan and University police responded to the building about 11:50 a.m., UPD Capt. Anthony RoccoGrande said.

Barbara Miller, director of the woman's studies program, said she called UPD after she went to recycle some papers on the second floor of Fungler Hall and heard something ticking in the garbage can next to the recycling bin.

MPD found the Radio Shack data directory after searching the area with dogs, Freedman said.

"It was a greater scare than anything else," he said.

"You can't afford to take chances," especially in light of the Oklahoma City bombing and copy cat crimes, RoccoGrande added.

-Tracy Sisser

New Solar Car unveiled at the Virginia campus

GW unveiled a new solar car at the Virginia campus Friday night.

Vice Chairman of Ford Motor Co. Louis R. Ross gave the keynote address at the event. Ford is one of the solar car team's corporate sponsors. Several other speakers joined GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg as they unveiled the new car.

The solar car, which cost about \$250,000, was built by more than

30 GW students. The car will compete in Sunrayce '95, which will start June 20 in Missouri. The race takes place over a 1,000-mile stretch between St. Louis, Mo. and Colorado.

The Friday ceremony was accompanied by a fund-raising dinner, which cost \$100 per ticket and \$50 for students.

-Michelle Von Euw

Students will sleepout for the homeless

The College Democrats and Hillel are cosponsoring the second Sleepout for the Homeless Tuesday night. The evening will begin at Hillel with a series of speakers at 9 p.m., and then move to the H Street Terrace of the Marvin Center at midnight, where students will spend the night.

Philippe Roth, community service chair of the CDs, said students who plan to sleep out are encouraged to find sponsors. All proceeds will benefit Bright Beginnings, a developmental day care center for homeless children.

"It's a smaller organization, so we can see tangible results," Roth said. The Sleepout raised about \$500 for the same organization last year, she said.

Speakers for the event will include representatives from the National Coalition to End Homelessness, Low Income Housing and Congressional Hunger Clinic. Leonard Adler, a former GW student who began a program that provides education about hunger and poverty, also will speak.

-Michelle Von Euw

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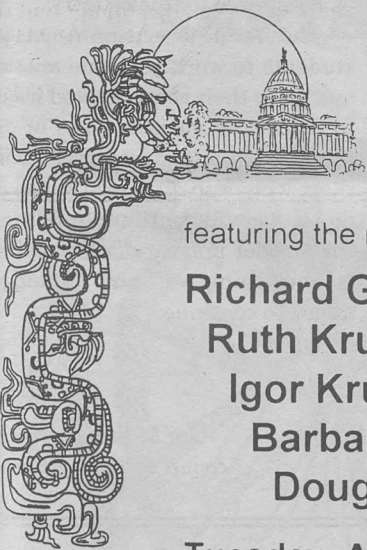
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THE GW HATCHET

An Independent Student Newspaper

Experienced?

The recent appointment of a more traditional academic professor to replace a newsroom-experienced professor in GW's journalism program may represent an unfortunate trend in the hiring processes of universities across the country. While we do not doubt that Janet Steele, a professor with a doctorate in journalism and one year's experience with CBS News, has the talent to teach GW's journalism students, we do wonder more generally how much "real-life" experience is needed to teach in a real-life field such as journalism.

It may be self-serving for The Hatchet to report and comment on a department we are so close to, but we see this isolated situation in a bigger light. As colleges are increasingly judged and ranked by their percentage of Ph.D. professors, there is an understandable desire to have more of them on staff. But if those professors are being brought on board because they have a doctorate and more qualified applicants are being left by the wayside, students should be outraged.

Undeniably, there is a benefit to real-life experience. There are the war stories and the insights on issues we never encounter in textbooks and the connections we gain from professors who worked extensively in their fields. There is also the knowledge that we gain, knowing we are being molded for the working world by people who once were a part of it.

We do not want to judge Steele prematurely, and we certainly do not want her to come to GW with enemies awaiting. Who knows, she could be the best professor ever to work in the journalism department, and this debate could be in vain.

But a bigger question — one that should be kept in mind to avoid similar controversy — lies within the process. Why were no students involved in this selection process? Are students even consulted when it comes to hiring new professors? Obviously, students know best what they look for in a professor. If we could have our say before the fact and not just sound whiny afterward, maybe the University could avoid the appearance of packing the faculty and could make students, professors and alumni feel the process was more fair and with the best intentions.

Admittedly, not all fields may require the working-world experience and war stories that journalism benefits from. But all fields, from accountancy to zoology, undoubtedly are enriched by the skill of a professional. It's what our professors encourage us to gain from school, and it's what we expect from them.

Crack down

The aftermath of Wednesday's Oklahoma City bombing accentuates the need to learn from such disasters to ensure that they may be prevented in the future. So far, the Clinton administration appears to have learned those lessons from this unprecedented tragedy.

Sunday, at a memorial service for the bombing victims, President Clinton read a letter he received from the widow of a victim of Pan American Flight 103, which was destroyed by a terrorist bomb over Scotland. "The hurt you feel must not be turned into hate," it read, "but into a search for justice."

That search for justice has been translated into a decisive search to bring those responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing to justice as quickly as possible. The FBI is scouring sites in Michigan, New York, Kansas and Arizona to trace prime suspect Timothy James McVeigh's paramilitary past. This manhunt has paid off — at least four people have been connected to the bombing.

But in the search for justice, we must remember the words Clinton read. In the chaos immediately following the bombing, press reports described two men of Middle-Eastern descent fleeing the scene. Desperate to find the killers, authorities nearly turned to an obvious ethnic scapegoat. In the future, they must expedite the search for the real suspects, but they cannot let prejudice and stereotypes act to salve their wounds and cloud their judgment.

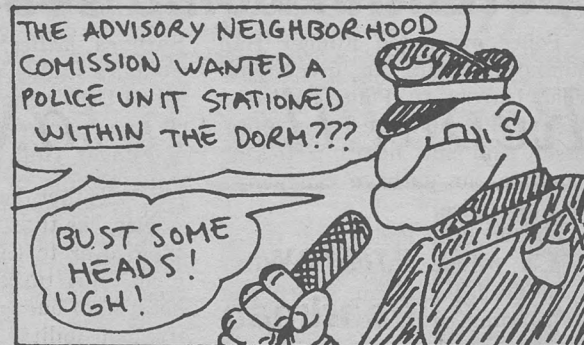
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Open mind

On Saturday, April 15, the Asian Student Intercollegiate Alliance held its Second Annual Student Symposium, "Breaking the Model Minority Myth." Students from American University, Georgetown University, George Mason University, the University of Maryland and others, were in attendance. The event was cosponsored by the Asian Student Alliance of GW and the Program Board.

Over the years, the Asian Americans have been unjustifiably labeled the "model minority." The term "model minority" refers to

Asians as being passive, distant and uninvolved when it comes to community and political issues. This, along with other misconceptions of Asian Americans, were the topics of discussion. Six speakers from the local Asian and Pacific Islander communities comprised a single panel to share their insights on the myth.

Each of the speakers focused on how Asian Americans need to empower themselves through knowing their identity, heritage and history. As we learn, we must teach others as well. Speakers from the media pointed out to students the lack of positive images of Asian Americans aired on television. Ignorant behavior conducted by

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) and O.J. Simpson's lawyer, Robert Shapiro, are examples of how Asian Americans are still viewed as foreigners to this country.

The need for Asian-American students to work with one another and voice their concerns and issues to dispel the various types of discrimination and stereotypes facing them were also discussed. Until we do so, we will continue to fall into the "model minority" myth, which is something we can no longer afford to continue.

-Gee L. Lee, president,
Asian Student Alliance

Two issues left!
Submit an op-ed to The GW Hatchet
while there's still time!

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OPINION

Republican tax cut proposal is too premature



Andrew Pearlman

The Contract with America was the foundation of a dramatic revolution. A majority of the provisions in the contract reflect the frustration of Americans with the welfare state. Dismantling a bureaucratic structure, reducing an exploding budget deficit and decentralizing power from Washington to the states are the primary motivations behind the contract. They are also, to a large degree, the reasons why the Republicans were successful in the Nov. 8 elections. But amid the frenzied legislative blitz, there is an irritating whine on the part of supply-side Republicans for tax cuts. And in fact, last week in the House, they were approved.

Of course no one willingly wants to pay taxes. Americans

would rather keep more of their pay checks than be forced to hand them over to the federal government. But taxes are a necessity because of our government's fiscal irresponsibility. As long as government officials refuse to make significant cuts in spending, we, the taxpayers, must pick up the tab. This is not because we are crazy about taxes but because someone must fill the vacancy of responsibility abdicated by the federal government.

Well, Republicans are now proclaiming that they are responsible. Why? Because they have approved spending rescissions, none of which have taken effect so far. And these insubstantial (not yet enacted) cuts are expected to equate to responsibility. This is an absurd irony from a party that demands responsibility from everyone but itself.

To an extent, we should be happy that Republicans are planning to pay for these tax reductions. This is a hell of an improve-

ment from the supply-side-economics debt explosion of the '80s. Tax cuts, coupled with exploding expenditures, created a gargantuan debt that requires interest payments of more than \$250 billion. This \$250 billion, 16 percent of the budget, could be spent on education and police. But instead it amounts to nothing more than an interest payment. To have the gall to propose tax cuts knowing these facts is like someone with high blood pressure going on a diet that consists of greasy fried chicken every night before bed.

The argument behind tax cuts is that by enacting reductions, a greater number of people will have more money, therefore making for a vibrant economy that has higher levels of employment and investment. This is an enticing proposition. But as Ross Perot once said, "The devil is in the details," and in this case, the devil is the skyrocketing debt.

Essentially, whether tax cuts help or hurt the economy is beside

the point. To varying degrees, most agree that tax cuts would effect the economy positively and that taxes should be as low as possible. There aren't many Republicans or Democrats who would dispute this fact. But the issue here is that they should be lowered after Congress has proven that it can be fiscally responsible.

So far, an actual tax cut has not taken place. The exploding costs of social security and Medicare have scarcely been discussed. To propose tax cuts before the difficult decisions have been made (my apologies for another food metaphor) is to eat your dessert first.

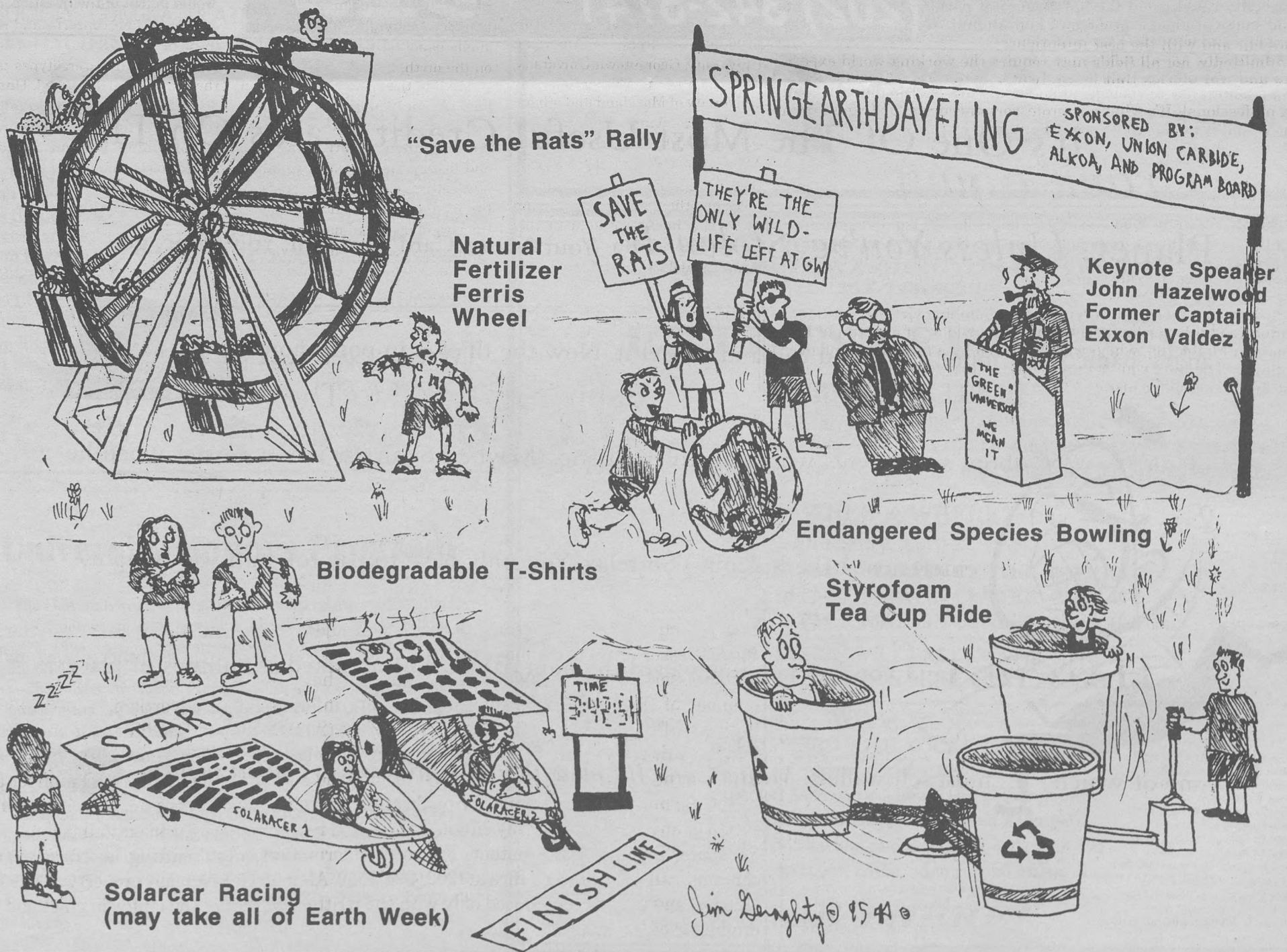
Polls have shown that Americans overwhelmingly favor balancing the budget before cutting taxes. Sure, tax cuts would be great for the short run. But cutting taxes only puts off paying bills that eventually must be paid. Seemingly, the contract was to be the first serious step in paying the bills. But the addictive impulse of tax cutting is seductive. The

Republicans seem to have caught the bug, as has our spineless president. If so, it would be a shameful finale for the Republicans and their contract. But not nearly as shameful as the burden they will bestow on future generations who will inevitably end up paying the bill.

Responsibility seems to be the buzzword in American culture these days. The something-for-nothing ideology of government failed. It not only failed the givers, but it failed the takers. The Republicans have every right to trumpet the death of the welfare state and the birth of the responsible state. But they, too, must live up to their ethos of responsibility when dealing with the deficit. They should not forget the immortal words of singer Barry White, "Practice what you preach."

Andrew Pearlman, a junior, is an English major.

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Eban addresses world, Middle East peace process

BY MONIQUE L. HARDING
HATCHET STAFF WRITER

Abba Eban, former Israeli ambassador and foreign minister, discussed the successes of the Middle East peace process and the obstacles that still need to be overcome to stabilize the region.

Eban, who will be one of five honorees at this year's commencement, delivered a speech in Colonial Commons Thursday. Eban is GW's James Clark Welling professor who gives public lectures on an occasional basis for four years.

Regarding the Middle East peace process, Eban spoke about those parties that should be involved in the negotiations.

"One should never seek amiable

people, seek abrasive people or seek those people (who tend to be) radical. (They have) to be able to both represent and transcend logic," Eban explained.

Eban said the international agenda has changed and, in the past, central themes were always the origins and the comparability of conflicts. "The question now is how to get out of the crisis and how to emerge from it ... They're interested in quenching the flames, not having endless debate about who kindled them in the first place," he noted.

But Eban said he believes the Middle East peace process is a success story. "There's very rarely any disappointment in international life," he said, adding that those who disagree with him are making "unrealistic expectations."

He added that many opponents to the peace process are unwavering. "How do you deter people who are not afraid of anything, including the fear of the violent end of their own lives?"

Eban also spoke about the Middle East peace conference that took place in 1973 in Geneva. It was the first time Israelis and Arabs sat at the same negotiating table and came up with a real guarantee for a peace settlement. Between their "mutual interests" and "cooperative projects," a war would be out of the question.

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Alumni fear for future of journalism program

(from p. 1)

Steele was selected from among 50 other candidates for the GW position. Journalism department chair Jean Folkerts said a search committee was formed to find prospective candidates and to interview the finalists on campus. The committee, made up of two professors each from the journalism and political communication programs and three other randomly selected professors, voted six to one to hire Steele, Folkerts said.

She said this appears to minimize the appearance of a controversy surrounding Steele's appointment. She also cited the fact that Steele was approved by a majority in the journalism program and in the National Center of Communications Studies as further evidence.

"She is very highly qualified and recognized in academic circles. She also has an exceptional classroom rating with students," Folkerts said.

But opposition to Steele's appointment comes from journalism alumni, who say they feel the strength of GW's program lies in its professors who have extensive newsroom experience. Two alumni who work at the Bureau of National Affairs, Jeff Goldfarb and Hazel Becker, said they are talking

to other GW graduates in hopes of starting a letter-writing campaign to protest the appointment.

Goldfarb, a 1992 GW graduate, said he fears that Steele may not have the "kind of experience necessary to teach people how to report."

"I sense the beginning of a shift of what the University wants in a journalism department ... or if it wants one at all," Goldfarb said.

Steele declined to comment for this story.

Steele graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College of William and Mary, earned a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University, won a fellowship to study at Columbia University's School of Journalism and wrote a book about Charles Dana, a 19th century journalist. Folkerts said Steele also spent one year working for CBS News.

Both Linda Salamon, dean of the Columbian College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and Folkerts said Steele's appointment will not have an effect on the direction of the journalism program. Folkerts said there always has been a blend of reporting classes and analytical-type journalism classes in the program, and this will not change.

Mark Nadler, a 1972 GW graduate who is now executive editor of

the Chicago Sun-Times, said if the program shifts more toward the academic study of journalism, GW would be "throwing away" its biggest selling point.

"What makes GW's journalism program different and unique is that it has really taken advantage of being in Washington," he explained.

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The University Honors Program is now accepting applications for Spring 1996 admission to the program. The deadline for applications is October 6, 1995. Applications are available at the University Honors Program office, 2138 G Street, NW.

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Nicholas Cage (center) plays Little Junior in *Kiss of Death*.

Caruso can't Kiss 'NYPD Blue' goodbye

BY TRYG OLSEN
HATCHET STAFF WRITER

Next on "NYPD Blue": There's a special guest star in the 15th precinct - Samuel L. Jackson (*Pulp Fiction*) - who chases after bad guy Little Junior Brown (cameo by Nicholas Cage, *Moonstruck*) while David Caruso looks cool and swears honorable revenge.

Oops, sorry folks, I forgot I was watching a movie. *Kiss of Death*, starring Caruso, formerly of "NYPD Blue" fame, looks remarkably like the ABC show on Tuesdays at 10 p.m.

Caruso stars as Jimmy Kilmartin, an alcoholic and ex-convict. (But then again, you don't realize that unless you watch really closely.) You have no idea why there is a movie about him because there is no character development in *Kiss of Death*.

This is the biggest reason that *Kiss of Death* resembles "NYPD Blue" - David Caruso and TV-type character development. Jimmy is married to Helen Hunt (who appears for five minutes in the movie and gets fourth billing. Go figure.)

Anyway, Jimmy is a pretty talented car thief, even though he gets caught a couple of times. One arrest occurs before the movie starts, so we find Jimmy out on parole. His cousin Ronnie calls in an old debt, so Jimmy does one last drive for the dark side. (Sorry, I accidentally switched my set to *Star Wars*.)

Of course, Jimmy gets caught by Calvin (Jackson) and the rest of the cops. In a strange turn of events, some drunk guy shoots at Calvin and Jimmy tries to block it. The bullet goes through Jimmy's hand into Cal's skull.

Everything is repaired, of course, except Calvin's tear ducts on the side of his face where he was shot. He then tears up incessantly throughout the movie. Apparently, this is was director Barbet Schroeder's attempt at grand symbolism.

Jimmy gets out of jail after three years and marries his babysitter. (Yes, I know it's illegal, but it's Hollywood.) He swears revenge on Little Junior (Cage), the guy who Ronnie works for and promises to set his family free. What is Little Junior's father called? Big Junior. And they say that screenwriters are talented.

There's no serious possible comparison to *Pulp Fiction*, so don't go to see *Kiss of Death* for that reason. Ultimately, there is only one reason that you should go to this film. Since TV is now in the rerun stage and you just have to get your "NYPD Blue" fix, then you should go. Don't go for any other reason and don't expect anything new, except for David Caruso to go the way of Don Johnson and Shelley Long.

DiCaprio scores with *Diaries*

Wrenching biographical piece addicts audience ...

BY NINA MEHTA
HATCHET STAFF WRITER

Sex, drugs and rock and roll provide the foundation for *The Basketball Diaries*, the powerful new film from director Scott Kalvert. The film is based on the book of the same name, which chronicles the life of famed street poet Jim Carroll, played in the film by Academy-Award nominee Leonardo DiCaprio (*What's Eating Gilbert Grape?*).

Diaries is about the early part of Carroll's life as a young Catholic high school student in New York during the 1950s. The film starts innocently enough, with Carroll and his friends cutting school to hang out in the city, get high and play some basketball, but mainly just be with friends.

The drug use in the beginning is experimental and driven by curiosity. This, though, is just the start of the downward spiral for Carroll and his friends, played James Madio, Patrick McGaw and Mark Wahlberg (better known as rapper Marky Mark).

The rush of drugs becomes more of a focus for the young writer as he moves from an occasional high to the all encompassing elevation of cocaine, then heroin. He details every feeling, from the freedom of heroin and how it relieves him of any physical and emotional pain, to the crash and his need for more. He goes on to logically realize his addiction but accept it.

The film does an excellent job of portraying the "mean" streets of New York, as well as the lure of the drug lifestyle. In one scene, which Carroll describes his first experience with heroin, you watch the young

man running through a field of flowers, devoid of all the constraints of the material world.

At the same time, the film does not glamorize this lifestyle. The withdrawal scenes in which Carroll attempts to sober up are especially painful to watch and purposefully neverending. The boys' descent into hell includes crime, violence and prostitution. The film does not shy away from any of these issues and recreates them with disturbing accuracy.

Leonardo DiCaprio is excellent as the tortured young artist, proving to be one of the finest actors of his generation. His performance illuminates what could have been just another movie about adolescent drug abuse.

DiCaprio's performance is reminiscent of the late River Phoenix in *My Own Private Idaho*. Ironically, Phoenix, who died of a drug overdose, was considered for DiCaprio's part years ago when *The Basketball Diaries* first attempted to go into production.

Another surprisingly noteworthy performance was Mark Wahlberg as the arrogant Mickey. Wahlberg seems to be coming into his own as an actor, hopefully leaving his rap career behind.

The Basketball Diaries is rounded out by a strong supporting cast: Bruno Kirby (*City Slickers*) as Coach Swifty, Lorraine Bracco (*Goodfellas*) as Carroll's mother, Ernie Hudson (*Ghostbusters*, *The Crow*) as Reggie and Juliette Lewis (*Natural Born Killers*) in a small part as the strung-out prostitute Diane.

The Basketball Diaries is one film that takes the audience on a ride and leaves them exhausted and disturbed.

... but morose soundtrack drugs listeners

BY BETH BUHOT
HATCHET STAFF WRITER

The Basketball Diaries, based on Jim Carroll's memoir, takes its audience on a journey through the downward spiral of drug addiction. The soundtrack, even when heard as a separate entity, tends to evoke the same scenario.

The album is almost uniformly downbeat. The Posies' "Coming Right Along," which relies mostly on minor chords, is sparse, almost enchanting. The next song in this series, however, "Strawberry Wine" by Massive Internal Complications, slows the pace to an eerie crawl. The instrumentation waxes and wanes in the background. This, added to the distorted vocals, seems to alight a neon sign that reads, "Attention, this song is about drugs!" In case anyone misses the point, there are lyrics like, "The room is spinning 'round, and I ain't never coming down," to boot.

Soundgarden's "Blind Dogs," is marked by slow, prodding power chords. The song seems to drag on forever, and Chris Cornell's moans and groans fail to convey the intended emotion.

Throughout the album, songs are mixed with lines from the film. The moody underscore, composed and produced by Graeme Revell, contrasts well with Carroll's cracked, wavering voice-overs. However, by the time the third and final monologue appears, Carroll



Reservoir Catholics: Jim (Leonardo DiCaprio, far right) and the boys (l. to r., Patrick McGaw, James Madio and Mark Wahlberg) hit the town.

sounds insincere, like Matt Dillon's stylized junkie in *Drugstore Cowboy*.

Carroll also sings on two tracks, "Catholic Boy" and "People Who Died." Both songs seem almost inseparable from the movie's context. "Catholic Boy," a tune recorded with Pearl Jam, has difficulty standing alone. With its erratic tempo and nostalgic lyrics, it works only as the backdrop for the movie's series of rock 'em, sock 'em schoolboy stunts. "People Who Died," by The Jim Carroll Band, echoes a conversation in the movie and refers to specific characters by name.

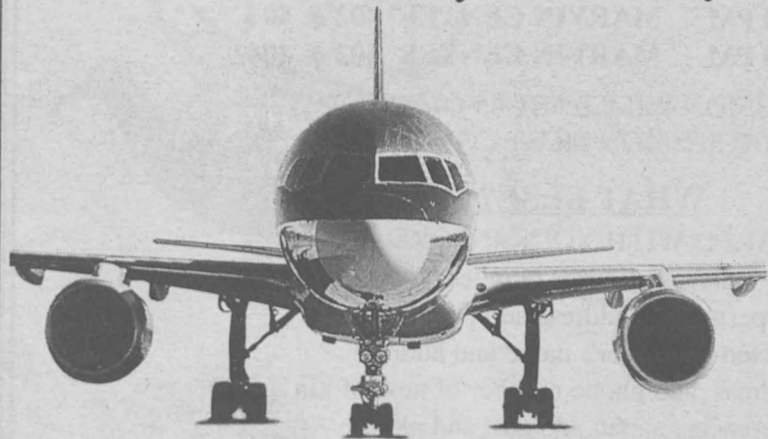
Other tracks are problematic in and of themselves. The Doors' "Riders on the Storm" is a cliché oldie and adds nothing to the album. "What A Life," a dated

synth-pop tune by Rockers HiFi, is excruciating.

Despite these setbacks, the album does turn out a few exceptional singles. PJ Harvey's "Down By The Water," with its heavy fuzz bass and eerie echoes, is a prime example. The melodic "I've Been Down" by Flea also warrants an honorable mention. The acoustic-driven instrumentation and falsetto vocals set this moody masterpiece apart.

However, such tunes are the exception, not the rule on this album. Perhaps it is the soundtrack's binding ties to the film, or perhaps it is the album's lack of variety. But it is doubtful that this score will become a listening staple on par with the soundtracks of movies including *Singles* and *Reservoir Dogs*.

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SPOTLIGHT

Talk about pop, pop culture

Floam and Smud take on market once ruled by Silly Putty

The media bombards the masses daily with glitzy messages for "new and improved" products that will do a variety of things from bettering your sex life to making you smell better. This column will look at some of the more fun products and their impact on the lives of college students.

BY DAN BLAIR
HATCHET REPORTER

"Ick!"
"Oogie!"
"Blech!"

These exclamations are the way to release some of the stress built up during the last few weeks as professors make more demands for more work and final papers. But these are also the reactions from two toys (a.k.a. stress busters for

college students) on the market.

Kids and college students love toys that elicit these responses from adults. Silly Putty has lost its thrill after all these years, though. You can only make so many impressions of the comics page before you are left wondering if there isn't more to the moldable compound industry.

Nickelodeon and Mattel Toys have answered that question with their great grosser-outer, Gak, the slime made famous by the "You Can't Do That On Television" and "Double Dare" TV shows. It's now packaged for mass consumption. They did not stop there, though, as the geniuses took the single rug-destroying triumph of Gak and spawned the less messy Smud and Floam.

However, despite their gooey

names ("Smud and Floam" sell really well," says Brett Goldsmith, sales associate at the FAO Schwarz toy store in Georgetown Park. "By the end of the day, we sell half our inventory."

The stores are making a fortune, too. A plop of Floam no bigger than a sample size of Play-Doh costs a whopping \$6, well beyond a college student's budget. Smud costs \$7. Mattel's master plan of having cats and little girls panicking in the streets, threatened by millions of little boys with handfuls of Floam and Smud, will remain a marketing fantasy unless it starts responding to economic trends.

Smud has the basic consistency of Play-Doh, but weighs much less. "It lasts and lasts and doesn't crumble," the package boasts, but does not give much of an idea of what to do with it. The accessories for Smud include Smud Works and Smud Chunker "for more ways to smush and shape," but it's pretty boring stuff without making the further investment in these. It does stick to walls however, if you have a strong enough arm, and makes the greatest flopping noise.

"Yeeeeeeaaahhh!" shout sophomores Jen Scarborough and Jen Edwards after their first Smud flop on the ceiling.

Any other drawbacks? You will continually want to wash your hands after you use this product. The reason this goop will not dry out is because it seems to contain half the world's oil supply.

Enter a creature named Floam. Its complete originality makes it a top seller among the Nickelodeon products, Goldsmith says. The brilliant synthesis of slime and micro-foam balls make Floam the biggest environmental hazard since Jerry Lewis. But Floam is fun! You can mold it and shape it and listen to it



photo by Claire Duggan

Make Floam into a ball and it bounces. Will the wonder ever cease?

crackle. When you pull it apart, it strings like a Rice Krispies Treat, and it's non-toxic so you could try eating it. The best part is when you make it into a ball, it bounces!

"It is entertaining as well as therapeutic," says sophomore Rob Guisti. Floam is 100 percent stress relief, especially with final exams next week.

Though Smud and Floam won't improve your sex life or make you

smell better, it is rumored that supermodels have a preference for men sporting handfuls of Nickelodeon glop. The final scoop on Smud and Floam is that they are both disgusting and entertaining. But with Smud, a certain amount of fun seems to be missing, leaving far too much space for the wild imagination. Sophomore Jason Mika said it best, "Floam is cool but the Smud sucks."



photo by Claire Duggan

Smud doesn't have the word "mud" in its name for nothing.

Kill your TV before it kills you

National TV-Turnoff Week great excuse to hit the books

BY KAREN D. ANCILLAI
FEATURES EDITOR

Call a friend at another school, draw a picture to send to your little brother or sister, write a short story, bake cookies, redecorate your room, take a walk to Adams Morgan or lay out on the University Yard. Just don't turn on the tube.

You might even want to talk to your roommates during the first National TV-Turnoff Week April 24-30. TV-Free America challenges you to not turn to television as an entertainment option.

The group is encouraging families and communities to spend the time they would normally spend in front of the television together. More than 1 million school children and their families across the country already have taken the week-long TV-free pledge.

Gov. Angus King Jr. (I-Maine) endorsed the initiative in an April 3 speech. He cited statistics in this speech that the average child will view 8,000 television murders by the time he or she finishes elemen-

tary school and 20,000 acts of violence by the time they turn 18.

Two GW siblings can attest to the merits of silencing the tube. "Ever since we were little, we weren't allowed to watch television," senior political communication major Danielle Dobin says.

"(Our parents) said we could watch an hour a day, and one day I came home and watched six hours. After that we couldn't watch any," her brother Michael Dobin, who is a sophomore English major, explains.

"It wasn't a big deal," his sister insists.

The two agree the restriction had its positive and negative effects.

"We read more," Danielle says. Michael says although he has nothing to contribute to the conversations his friends have about old television shows, he did always get his homework done.

Now that he is at GW and out of his parents' jurisdiction, Michael says he still does not watch much television. "I don't even have one in my room," he says. He says when

he goes home, his mom yells if she catches him watching for more than two hours. "She always gives me jobs to do so I can't watch," he says.

Michael says just because he does not watch television that does not mean he does not procrastinate. "I procrastinate by going out and hanging out with people," he says.

He says he probably will participate in National TV-Turnoff Week, except for the one hour when the Fox TV show "Sliders" is on. "There's just something about that show," Michael says.

"National TV-Turnoff Week departs from the 40-year-old (and largely ineffective) debate over the content of television ... Turning off the TV for a week is a simple and effective act which requires neither experts nor scientific reports. It's easy, fun, free and promises direct personal returns," Henry Labalme, executive director and co-founder of TV-Free America, says in a statement.

It might also be a fine time to start studying - finals begin in nine days.

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Monday, April 24

Bible Study 8pm in the Interfaith Office. Sponsored by the Baptist Student Union. Info: 676-6434.

IAS E-Board Mtg 9pm on the MC 4th floor.

Study Abroad Info Meeting 3-3:30pm in Stuart 108. Info: 994-1649.

Student Life Committee Mtg 8pm in MC 424.

Tuesday, April 25

Free Group Counseling for Trauma 4:30pm in the Counseling Center. Info: Anne Mills, 994-6550.

Job Search Strategies 4:30-6pm in the Academic Center T509. Sponsored by the Career Center. Info: 994-6495.

GW Men's Baseball v. Virginia Commonwealth 3pm at Barcroft Park (2100 S. Four Mile Run Dr., Arlington). Info: 994-0339.

Sleep Out for Homelessness 9pm-12am at Hillel, 12-7am on the H St. Terrace. Sponsored by the CDs & Hillel. Info: 994-4888.

SA Senate Meeting 9pm in MC 405.

Financial Aid & Study Abroad 4pm in Stuart 108.

Wednesday, April 26

Program Board General Mtg 8:30pm in MC 429.

Progressive Student Union Mtg 8pm in MC 419.

Score Higher On Tests II Sponsored by the Counseling Center. 4:10-5:25pm. Info: 994-6550.

Letters & Resumes II 3:30-4:30pm in the Acad. Center T509 in the Career Center. Info: 994-6495.

Cooperative Education Orientation 5-6pm in the Acad. Center T509. Sponsored by the Career Center.

GW-Madrid Pre-Departure Orientation for Study Abroad 7-8:30pm in Stuart 108. Mandatory for students studying in Madrid in Fall '95 or Full year '96.

"Studyfest" 9pm-12am in the Thurston Cafeteria. Sponsored by AKA, Inc. Info: 994-9762.

Thursday, April 27

Anxious About Speaking in Class? 7-8pm. Sponsored by The Counseling Center. Info: 994-6550.

International Coffee Hour 4-7pm in Bldg D (2129 G). Free cookies & beverages. Sponsored by ISS.

Cooperative Education Orientation 5-6pm in the Acad. Center T509. Sponsored by the Career Center.

Study Abroad Info Meeting 11-11:30pm in Stuart 108. Info: 994-1649.

Oxfam '95 Informational Meeting 3:30pm in the Board of Chaplains Office (2131 G St).

Friday, April 28

Noonday 12pm in the Interfaith Office. Sponsored by the BSU. Info: 676-6434.

Committee on Student Publications Meeting 11am in MC 411. Info: Kathleen @ 994-6555.

Fashion Show to benefit Breast Cancer Research 8:30pm in the MC Ballroom. Sponsored by the Panhellenic Association & Kappa Kappa Gamma. \$2 admission. Info: 887-0533.

Saturday, April 29

No submissions for this date.

Sunday, April 30

SEA Meeting 7pm in MC 4th floor. Info: 994-7284.

Newman Center Appreciation Picnic after the 11am Mass in the West Potomac Park.

Announcements

Annual Awards Show April 6-26, Tues.-Thurs. open 10am-5pm, and Saturday open 12-5pm. Located in the Dimock Gallery. Info: 994-1525.

1 out of 5 will be hit by a drunk driver! MADD is interested in founding a chapter in DC. Call: 1-800-GET-MADD, ext. 238.

Spring Dance Concert April 27, 28 & 29 at 8pm in the MC Dorothy Betts Theatre. \$8 general, \$5 student. Sponsored by the Theatre & Dance Dept.

"City Invincible: Walt Whitman's Washington, 1863-73" April 17-May 12 in Gelman 207. Opening reception April 26 from 5:30-7pm. Sponsored by the Friends of the GW University's Libraries. Info: 994-6455.

Fashion Show Booth April 26, 27 & 28 on the H St. Terrace. Raffle tickets (\$1), t-shirts (\$12), and tickets for show (\$2). Panhellenic & Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Yom Hashoah/Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration 24 hour candlelight vigil on the Quad. 9pm, April 27 until 9pm, April 28. Sponsored by GW Hillel. Info: 296-8873.

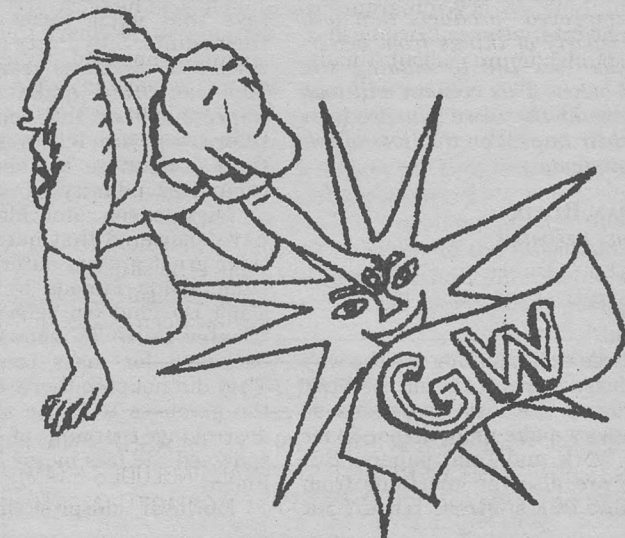


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Talk show host reveals all

Jan Helfeld teaches students how to interview politicians

BY DIANE FROST
HATCHET REPORTER

Political talk show host Jan Helfeld showed GW students Thursday evening how he interviews prominent politicians and makes certain they are telling the truth.

Helfeld is the host of "The Bottom Line," a TV program in which he interviews politicians and other public figures about timely issues.

Helfeld gave a two-hour presentation in the Thurston Hall TV Lounge during which he showed two videos and answered students' questions.

The presentation was sponsored by the American Collegiate Conservatives and the Objectivist Club.

Helfeld said he interviews political figures to "investigate the fundamentals on which their conclusions are based." He said he tries to point out contradictions and discrepancies between a politician's thoughts and actions.

In a video clip from his show, he discussed the minimum wage with Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.). Helfeld said he uncovered a contradiction in Pelosi's philosophy because she said it is morally wrong to pay anybody less than \$7.50 an hour, but she did not pay some members of her own staff \$7.50 an hour.

"At that point, I think it's relevant to raise (this example) and see if she considers that to be morally wrong," he said.

Helfeld said showing discrepancies between politicians' expressed

beliefs and actions is a service to voters.

"We're all paying for it, because ... it's my view that the legislation they enact is affected adversely, and we have to live with the bad laws that they pass," he explained.

Helfeld said he has also interviewed newsmen Ted Koppel and Mike Wallace, Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D-Del.), Virginia Gov. George Allen (R) and Rep. Barbara Rose Collins (D-Mich.). He said he will interview the governor of Puerto Rico on his next show.



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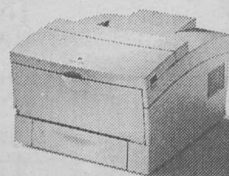
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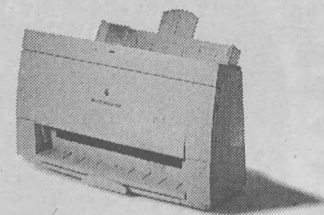
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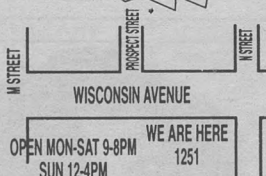
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Initiative will make GW earth-conscious

(from p. 1)

University will oversee these goals. Each subcommittee is a building block within the plan and have their own long-term goals.

Trachtenberg emphasized GW's decision to become environmentally ethical in a speech last December when he signed the letter of understanding and agreement between the EPA and GW.

At the event, Trachtenberg said that universities fulfill their missions when they explore new directions and "infuse their students with new and important ideas."

He added that universities can surpass society's expectations when they take a leadership role in changing prevailing culture, creating new visions and affecting the world "in creative, beneficial ways."

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Greek Week canceled for spring semester

BY AMY BETH SCHNEIDER
HATCHET STAFF WRITER

GW's fraternities and sororities did not sponsor a Greek Week this year and will instead have an awards banquet at the end of April to acknowledge achievements within the Greek community.

Greek Week usually is held in the spring and consists of speakers,

competitions, information sessions, awards and games. Philanthropic awards are given to Greek-letter organizations, and the money raised is usually donated to charities, Panhellenic Association President Kendra Fox said. She said Greek Week most likely will take place in the fall so that it coincides with Welcome Week.

Order of Omega, a leadership

fraternity for men and women, is sponsoring the banquet April 30 in the Marvin Center Ballroom.

"(The banquet) is planned to recognize Greeks and their organizations for excellence in certain things," Fox said.

These awards have been given out by the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Association but never at a banquet, said Chris

Young, vice president of Order of Omega. He said the awards include outstanding fraternity and sorority, Greek man and Greek woman of the year, best pledge class, most philanthropic fraternity and sorority and most scholastic.

Young said he also views the banquet as an opportunity to recognize the Dean's Advisory Council, which is comprised of seven to 12

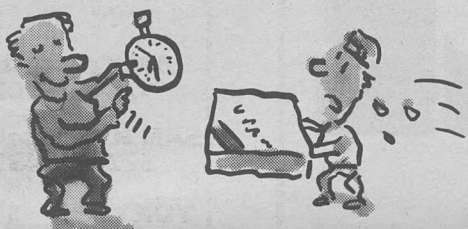
students who meet with Assistant Dean of Students Jan-Mitchell Sherrill and Greek Affairs Adviser Marcie Tucker to discuss development within the Greek-letter community.

Fox said she thinks the banquet will become an annual event. Depending on the budget, the banquet may be open to all students at GW and not exclusively to the Greek-letter community.

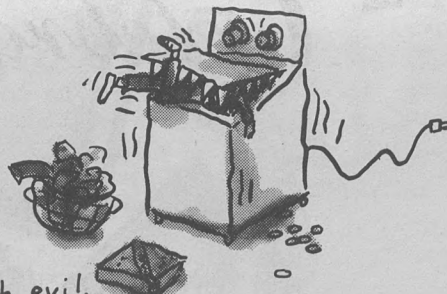
"We want this to become an arena for us to recognize those who have stood apart and given of themselves," Young said. "We think it is going to be a great success. We are taking the opportunity to recognize those who have reached out to the community and taken leadership positions to benefit us all."

College Life: A Few Things To Know

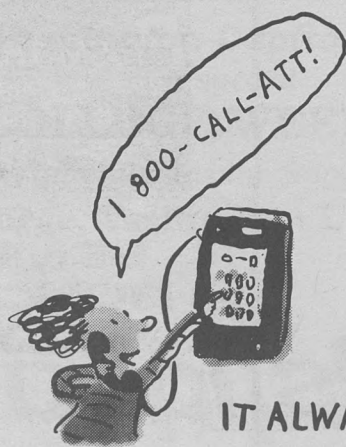
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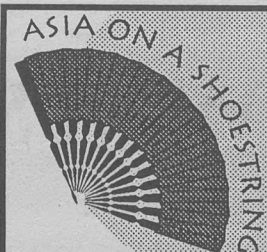


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The GW Hatchet

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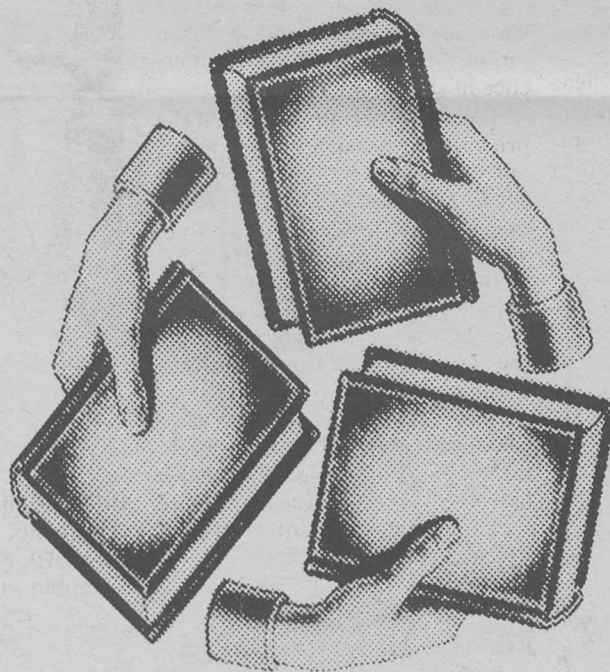
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SPORTS

Colonials break top 3

GW baseball back at .500 with 13-6 win

BY BEN OSBORNE
HATCHET SPORTS WRITER

The GW baseball team reached the elusive .500 mark Sunday with an explosive 13-6 victory at Rhode Island, one day after splitting a doubleheader with the Rams by winning and losing by the same 6-2 score.

The weekend left GW with a 21-21 record on the year (12-6 in Atlantic 10). The Colonials are now in the top three in the conference, a position head coach Jay Murphy said he is happy with.

"We're disappointed that we didn't sweep them, for sure, but at the same time we played well the last two games, and I'm happy with the guys for the way they bounced back and set the stage for us to get a good seed in the A-10," he said.

The Colonials combined 16 hits with 10 Ram errors in Sunday's blowout, with four players picking up three hits apiece to lead the way. The standouts were Lance Migita, Mike Morello, Cassidy Smith and Chris Martine.

Murphy attributed the offensive success almost exclusively to the Colonials. "Yes, they made a lot of errors but I think we put pressure on them by putting the ball in play so much, and that created some mistakes," he said.

With the score only 5-2 after five complete innings, the Colonials erupted for seven runs in

the top of the sixth, sending 13 players to the plate to put the game away.

Scott Linder earned the win for GW on the strength of a six-inning performance in which he allowed seven hits and three walks but limited the Rams to three runs. Rhode Island collected three more runs in the seventh off Matt Williams, but then fellow freshman relievers Rob Felty and Chris Aronson closed the door with matching hitless innings.

Saturday's 6-2 win in the second game was a more modest performance, but the six hits GW mustered were more than enough to back starter Dennis Healy.

Healy, re-establishing himself as the ace of the staff with some fine outings over the last month, pitched a complete game, allowing only two runs on five hits to improve to 4-6 on the year.

Healy was lit up for single runs in the fourth and fifth but settled down again to finish off the win, which also pleased Murphy. "Dennis pitched well, as usual, and one of the best things has been that he has succeeded while always pitching in our biggest games," Murphy said.

Two errors by Rhode Island led to four of GW's runs, with the other two runs coming off RBIs from Morello and Brian Guiliana. Morello and Scott Guiliana each had two hits to pace the Colonial attack.



In Saturday's first game, GW's offense was silenced by Rhode Island starter Jay Krystofolski, who went six innings and allowed just four hits for the victory.

Rhode Island's defense was GW's only weapon offensively in the game, setting the tone for what would happen throughout the series. The Colonials capitalized on four URI errors to score unearned runs in the sixth and seventh innings, too late to make a difference in the game's outcome.

GW starter Ryan Clark paid the price for the meager offensive output, taking the loss after allowing six runs in three innings. In this case, mistakes hurt Clark as well, as five walks and three errors led to three unearned runs off Clark. Eric Rappa came on for Clark and kept the score close by finishing the game with three shutout innings.

The Colonials battle two non-conference opponents this week, taking on Virginia Commonwealth University at home Tuesday before heading to the University of Richmond for a single game Wednesday.



photos by Claire Duggan

Brian Guiliana (top) rounds third base earlier this year against Duquesne. The junior centerfielder bagged an RBI in Saturday's win over URI. Freshman catcher Chris Martine (bottom) hit 3 for 4 with a double in Sunday's 13-6 triumph.

Rutgers serves GW an upset at home

Men's tennis takes 2nd in A-10 tourney; Shafran scores lone win

BY KYNAN KELLY
SPORTS EDITOR

Rutgers enjoyed its home court advantage this weekend at the Atlantic 10 men's tennis tournament, upsetting No. 1 seeded GW 5-1 in the championship match.

The Scarlet Knights came into the tournament as the fourth-seeded team, but claimed the conference crown by capturing three of the four singles matches and two of the three doubles matches.

Freshman standout Brad Shafran owned the lone singles win for the Colonials as he continued his solo winning ways, beating Jared Morris 6-3, 6-1.

Brandon Purece and Scott Lowder combined to give GW its best showing in the doubles round. They finished off RU's David Birnbaum and Scott McGrath, 8-5. McGrath earned the win over Lowder in the No. 6 singles match, however, polishing off the freshman from Holden, Mass., 6-2, 6-2.

And David Skid put up a good fight, but was forced to conclude his collegiate career as Bobby Baron edged him 6-3, 7-6. Rutgers tallied its third singles victory as Joe Howard dealt Rob Frankel a 6-4, 6-2, defeat.

Skid and Roni Biron also fought hard, but bowed to

Alex Cass and Chris Sanni in doubles action, 9-8.

The Scarlet Knights doubles pair of Baron and Stephen Gola wrapped up the victory by whipping Shafran and Yuval Karutzy, 8-2.

The Colonials reached the final round by dominating West Virginia, 4-1, Saturday. Karutzy dropped the only match for GW, while his teammates cruised to victories in preparation for Sunday.

Purece and Lowder scored an 8-0 decimation of Mountaineers Ray Bernardo and Walter Samora. Lowder also thumped Bernard in his singles match, 6-0, 6-2.

GW blanked ninth-seeded St. Joseph's in every match Friday. Karutzy shut out Jeff Laffey, 6-0, 6-0, and no other Hawk got closer than Skid's 6-1, 6-3, trouncing of Ally Gaylord.

Head coach Joe Mesmer can look forward to a strong, young squad next year, though he loses Skid to graduation. Shafran, a freshman from Oceanside, N.Y., has embodied the promise of next season, winning matches even on the days when his teammates fell short.

GW will also rely on three experienced players from this year's campaign, as it returns Biron, Purece and Karutzy for their senior seasons.

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